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SEP-29-05 14:01

FROM-Merchant & Gould

6123329081

T-836 P.006/007 F-566

U.S. Parent Application Serial No. 10/723,453
Reply to Office Action dated June 30, 2005

Remarks:

Applicants have read and considered the Office Action dated June 30, 2005 and the references cited therein. Claims 1, 10, 11, 17, 19 and 20 have been amended. Claims 12 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-11 and 13-22 are currently pending in the application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-9, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gunther et al. In addition, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunther et al. Claims 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunther et al. in view of Saitoh. Finally, claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunther et al. in view of Lui.

Claims 10, 11, 12 and 20-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended and recites features of claim 12, which was indicated as having allowable subject matter and claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable. Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form and is believed to be allowable. Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form and is therefore believed to be allowable. Applicants assert that the remaining claims all depend either directly or indirectly from these claims and are therefore allowable. Applicants assert that the rejections under §102 and §103 are therefore overcome. Applicants assert that the claims patentably distinguish over the prior art or any combination thereof and are in condition for allowance.

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A speedy and favorable action on the merits is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.

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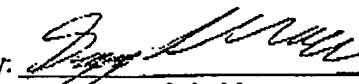
PATENT TRADEMARK

Dated

9/29/05

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

By: 

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